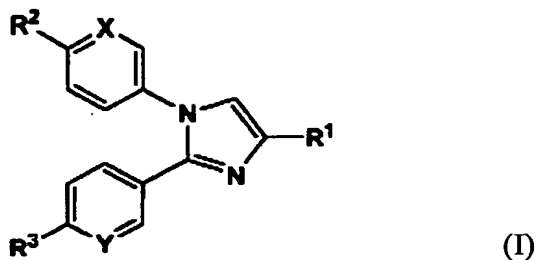


IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Original): A compound of the formula (I):



[wherein

R¹ is (lower)alkyl, halogen-substituted (lower)alkyl, hydroxy-substituted (lower)alkyl, cycloalkyl, carbamoyl, N-[(lower)alkyl]carbamoyl, N,N-di[(lower)alkyl]carbamoyl, formyl, (lower) alkanoyl, carboxy, [(lower) alkoxy] carbonyl, cyano, cycloalkylcarbonyl or heterocycliccarbonyl;

R² is halogen, cyano, hydroxy, (lower)alkoxy, aryl[(lower)alkyl]oxy, [(lower)alkoxy]carbonyl, carbamoyl, formyloxy, (lower)alkanoyloxy, [(lower)alkyl]sulfonyloxy, [halogen-substituted (lower)alkyl]sulfonyloxy or carboxy;

R³ is (lower)alkoxy, hydroxy, amino, [(lower)alkyl]amino, or di[(lower)alkyl]amino, or di [(lower)alkyl]amino;

X and Y are each CH or N]

or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): A The compound ~~according to~~ of Claim 1,

wherein

R¹ is (lower)alkyl, halogen-substituted (lower)alkyl, cycloalkyl, N,N-di[(lower)alkyl]carbamoyl, (lower)alkanoyl, or cyano;

R² is halogen, cyano, hydroxy, or lower alkoxy;

R³ is lower alkoxy; and

X and Y are each CH, X is N and Y is CH, or X is CH and Y is N;

or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

Claim 3 (Canceled).

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A ~~pharmaceutical~~ composition comprising a ~~the~~ compound of ~~Claim 1 or 2~~ claim 1 as an active ingredient, ~~in association with~~ and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, ~~or excipient, or combination thereof.~~

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A method for ~~treatment and/or prevention~~ treating at least one disease in human beings or animals ~~of inflammatory conditions, various pains, collagen diseases, autoimmune diseases, various immunity diseases, thrombosis, cancer or neurodegenerative diseases which comprises~~ comprising administering an ~~effective amount of~~ the compound of ~~Claim 1 or 2~~ Claim 1 to the human beings or animals in an amount sufficient to treat the at least one disease.

Claim 6-7 (Canceled).

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The ~~method of analgesic agent of Claim 8~~ claim 5, which is usable for ~~treating or preventing pains caused by or associated with~~ wherein the at least one disease comprises rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis, lumbar rheumatism, rheumatoid spondylitis, gouty arthritis, juvenile arthritis; lumbago; cervico-omo-brachial syndrome; scapulohumeral periartthritis; pain and tumescence after operation or injury.

Claim 9 (Canceled):

Claim 10 (New): The method of claim 5, wherein the at least one disease comprises inflammatory conditions, collagen diseases, autoimmune diseases, immunity diseases, thrombosis, cancer and neurodegenerative diseases.

Claim 11 (New): A composition comprising the compound of claim 2 as an active ingredient and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, excipient, or combination thereof.

Claim 12 (New): A method for treating at least one disease in human beings or animals comprising administering the compound of claim 2 to the human beings or animals in an amount sufficient to treat the at least one disease.

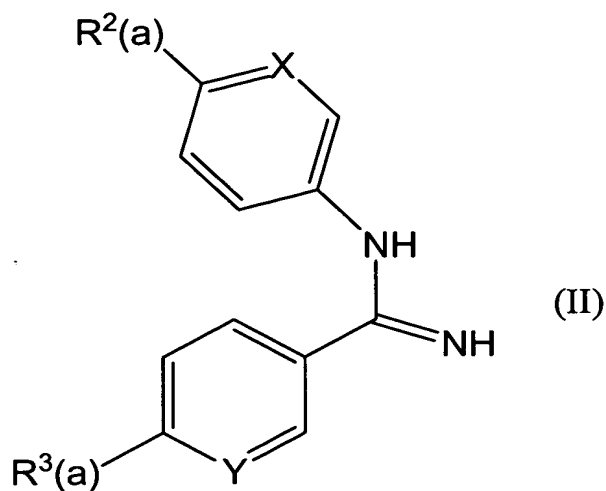
Claim 13 (New): The method of claim 12, wherein the at least one disease comprises rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis, lumbar rheumatism, rheumatoid spondylitis, gouty arthritis, juvenile arthritis; lumbago; cervico-omo-brachial syndrome; scapulohumeral periartthritis; pain and tumescence after operation or injury.

Claim 14 (New): The method of claim 12, wherein the at least one disease comprises inflammatory conditions, collagen diseases, autoimmune diseases, immunity diseases, thrombosis, cancer and neurodegenerative diseases.

Claim 15 (New): The compound of claim 1, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable salts comprise alkali metal salts, alkaline earth metal salts, ammonium salts, organic base salts, organic acid salts, inorganic acid salts, and amino acid salts.

Claim 16 (New): The compound of claim 2, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable salts comprise alkali metal salts, alkaline earth metal salts, ammonium salts, organic base salts, organic acid salts, inorganic acid salts, and amino acid salts.

Claim 17 (New): An intermediate of formula (II)



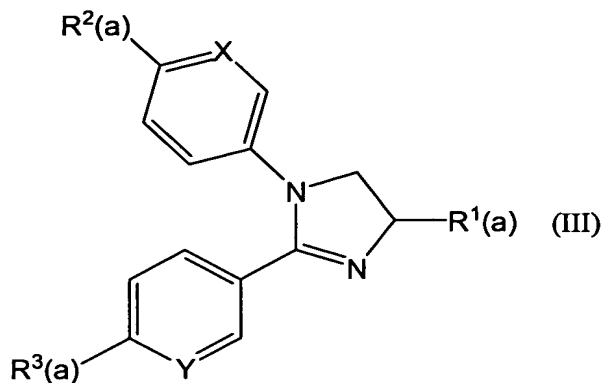
wherein R²(a) is selected from the group consisting of halogen, cyano, (lower)alkoxy, aryl((lower)alkyl)oxy, ((lower)alkoxy)carbonyl, formyloxy, (lower)alkanoyloxy, ((lower)alkyl)sulfonyloxy, and (halogen-substituted(lower)alkyl)sulfonyloxy;

wherein R³(a) is lower alkoxy; and

wherein

X and Y are each CH or N.

Claim 18 (New): An intermediate of formula (III)



wherein R¹(a) is selected from the group consisting of (lower alkyl), halogen-substituted (lower)alkyl, cycloalkyl, N,N-di((lower)alkyl)carbonyl, formyl, (lower)alkanol, ((lower)alkoxy)carbonyl, cyano and cycloalkylcarbonyl;

wherein R²(a) is selected from the group consisting of halogen, cyano, (lower)alkoxy, aryl((lower)alkyl)oxy, ((lower)alkoxy)carbonyl, formyloxy, (lower)alkanoyloxy, ((lower)alkyl)sulfonyloxy, and (halogen-substituted(lower)alkyl)sulfonyloxy;

wherein R³(a) is lower alkoxy; and

wherein

X and Y are each CH or N.

Claim 19 (New): A package comprising

the compound of claim 1; and

a written matter associated therewith,

wherein the written matter states that the compound is used for preventing or treating at least one of inflammatory conditions, various pains, collagen diseases, autoimmune

diseases, various immunity diseases, analgesic, thrombosis, cancer and neurodegenerative diseases.

Claim 20 (New): A package comprising
the compound of claim 2; and
a written matter associated therewith,
wherein the written matter states that the compound is used for preventing or treating
at least one of inflammatory conditions, various pains, collagen diseases, autoimmune
diseases, various immunity diseases, analgesic, thrombosis, cancer or neurodegenerative
diseases.